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24 interruptions of energy and water, including critical needs related to shelter, food,  
25 water, and medical care” and to develop recommendations and implementation plans;  
26 and

27 **WHEREAS**, public conversations will assist decision-makers and Austinites in  
28 better understanding the course of events that unfolded, as a means of acknowledging  
29 the extraordinary efforts of city staff while also creating a space for identifying  
30 strategies for building a more resilient, better-prepared city and community response  
31 in the inevitable event of future disasters; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

32 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF**  
33 **AUSTIN:**

34 The City Council will conduct a series of focused conversations with briefings  
35 from staff and community partners. Sessions will be focused on critical topics including  
36 energy, water, sheltering, communications, emergency operations, intergovernmental  
37 coordination, coordination with community organizations, and other related topics. The  
38 draft work plan and schedule appear as Exhibit A.

39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

40 The City Auditor is directed to undertake an audit of the city’s response to the  
41 winter emergency. The Auditor will refine the scope of the audit in coordination with  
42 the Council’s Audit and Finance committee, but shall include for consideration the  
43 following topics: City’s pre-storm preparations (including outreach to vulnerable  
44 populations, establishment of shelters, communications with the public, winterization  
45 of city facilities, and coordination with community groups, individual volunteers, and  
46 other governmental entities); response during the storm (including briefings to and  
47 coordination with Council, interdepartmental and intergovernmental coordination,

communications with the public, the establishment of warming centers, and other steps taken to ensure safety of staff and community members); and recovery operations post-storm (including the procurement, equitable allocation, and distribution of food and water resources; coordination with community groups; communication and coordination with Council); steps the City has taken to ensure it can continue critical operations during a disaster as well as contingency plans in the event that critical services are not available; and how the City's Emergency Operations Center functioned during the emergency in light of best practices in emergency management.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Council creates the Winter Storm Review Task Force under section 2-1-2(E) of the City Code for the purpose of holding open public listening sessions during which individuals and organizational representatives can share information, experiences, and recommendations related to the winter storm and resulting crises. The task force's role will be to create a structured public space for these comments and to summarize these into a final report for the City Council. The task force should structure its hearings in such a manner as to provide opportunities for as many people as possible to participate within the limited timeframe. The City Manager shall provide appropriate staff to assist the task force.

Each of the following commissions shall appoint one member to the task force: African American Resource Advisory Commission, Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission, College Student Commission, Commission for Women, Commission on Seniors, Commission on Veterans Affairs, Early Childhood Council, Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission, Human Rights Commission, LGBTQ Quality of Life Advisory Commission, and the Mayor's Committee on People with Disabilities. Each commission shall designate a member no

73 later than April 8, 2021. If a commission is unable to meet within a timely fashion to  
74 designate a member, then the chair of that commission shall either serve as the designee  
75 or shall delegate that responsibility to another member.

76 The task force shall convene no later than the week of April 12, 2021, to elect a  
77 chair and vice chair. The task force shall begin hearings no later than the week of April  
78 19, 2021, as long as at least five of the appointing commissions have designated  
79 representatives. The task force shall conclude its hearings no later than June 30, 2021,  
80 and submit a final report to the City Council no later than July 30, 2021.

81 A quorum of the task force shall be six members. No vacancy in the membership  
82 of the task force shall impair the right of a quorum to exercise all of the rights and  
83 perform all of the duties of the task force.

84 Any member of the task force may be removed by Council for malfeasance,  
85 failure to attend three or more consecutive meetings for any reason whatsoever, or  
86 willful neglect of duty.

87 The task force shall be subject to the Open Meetings requirements of City Code  
88 Chapter 2-1 and the provisions of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code (*Open*  
89 *Meetings Act*).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager is directed to create a “SpeakUp Austin!” public portal, linked from the Community Task Force web page, where members of the public can submit written or video testimony describing their experiences, observations, and recommendations. Public testimony, images, and other information submitted via the online portal or through the task force hearings shall become part of an archive at the Austin History Center created for this purpose.

**ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2021      **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Jannette S. Goodall  
City Clerk